

February 2015

Dear WCSD Families,

I was purposely waiting for the February 3, 2015 Board of Education meeting to take place, in order to officially announce that the entire administrative team at John Jay High School is **completed**. In December 2014, Ms. Bonnie King accepted the position of Principal of John Jay HS and, now we have officially appointed Mr. David Kedzielawa to the position of Assistant Principal at John Jay HS. We are extremely delighted for the entire John Jay staff, students, parents and community.

We continue to provide all of our instructional administrators, teachers and support staff sustained and consistent professional development in a positive effort to provide quality instruction for all students. Working closely with the leadership team assures that the school culture maintains our focus on the District's mission and core values. Our work is collaborative, as well as, maintaining a focus on providing our building principals with all of the necessary supports to ensure that as key leaders in their buildings they are able to successfully provide all the supports necessary to maximize instruction and appropriate supports for students. The second newsletter of the Curriculum and Instruction Department has been published and reflects the excellent work that is being done for students throughout our District. If you have not had the opportunity to review our newsletter please refer to our website: <http://wappingersschools.org/cms/lib01/NY01001463/Centricity/Domain/31/WCSD%20Newsletter%20Quarter%202%202015.pdf>.

February celebrates Black History Month or National African American History Month in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. Our curriculum encompasses learning about all Americans through the school year. Of particular note, February's calendar of activities and events will also commemorate this historical month and accentuate the achievements of African Americans.

The Board of Education has a fiduciary responsibility to provide oversight of the District finances. As we continue to navigate the annual budget process, the Board of Education will be looked to for feedback that will be accumulated and used into the future. The first set of budget presentations is underway. Thus far, we presented on General Supports, January 12, 2015, and Instruction, February 3, 2015. At the February 9, 2015, Board of Education meeting, we will provide the Board with the third presentation on Transportation and Undistributed (Benefits and Debt Services). Please

refer to our website for budgetary information, Q&A page, items and presentations: <http://wappingersschools.org/Page/18970>. The three aforementioned presentations reflect the first set of the budget process, which reflects departmental level requests District-wide. These budget components are reviewed, discussed and refined into the Superintendent's Recommended Budget. The anticipated date for the first presentation of the Superintendent's recommended budget is scheduled for February 23, 2015. This version of the budget will still contain many estimates and approximations that will be under review and a work in progress until April 2015.

Lastly, as we endure the cold freezing temperatures and potential snow storms we are eagerly awaiting weather that will not impact school delays and closings. Once again during inclement weather, please make sure to log on to the District website periodically for updated information, listen to local radio stations, check your email for District weather related notifications and/or our automated school messenger announcements.

As we continue through this school year let us all remember our mission which, "... is to empower all of our students with the competencies and confidence to challenge themselves, to pursue their passions, and to realize their potential while growing as responsible members of their community."

Stay warm!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John P. ...", is placed over a light gray rectangular background.

Superintendent of Schools